

Comparative Analysis of Subject-Verb Agreement in the Syntax of Sindhi and English Language

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ABSTRACT

The present study discusses the major grammatical aspect of Sindhi and English language which is subject verb agreement of both languages but before discussing the nature of verb, a very concise historical perspective of English and Sindhi language is given. In addition to this, the researchers took notes of verb agreement of two ancient languages of world and investigate some syntactic properties of both languages. The study shows that Sindhi language is head final language while English is head initial language. These two languages are different according to parameters of language. Data for study has been analyzed by explaining some rules in which verb takes position. Hence, the current study confirms Sindhi language is not only different from English at phonological and morphological aspects but it is also different in its origin.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sindhi

There are more than 6900 languages in the world and according to language database maintained by summer institute of linguistics, these all languages belong to 120 different language families and the purpose of all these Languages is only to share our thoughts, concept, feelings and emotions etc. According to principles and parameter approach, some languages are different according to the structure in which Sindhi is one of them.

Sindhi is ancient language of the world which is particularly used in Sindh province and in many areas of India. To which language family Sindhi belongs? there are five opinions about it.

Trump (1872) states that "Sindhi is emerged from Sanskrit language". Advani, Beg and Gurbuxani were also agree with view of Ernest Trump that real origin of Sindhi is Sanskrit. Afterward, Dr. Nabi Bux. Baloch rejected the view of Ernest Trump. Baloch (1960) stated, "Sindhi is ancient pre-Sanskrit Indo-Aryan Indus valley language while Lahnda & Kashmiri are cognate sisters of it" (p.19). After doing deep study Trump himself seemed to be suspicious in his theory. Hence third opinion is given by Sirajul Haq Memon who also denied from the views of Trump, Grierson and also from Baloch. Memon (1964) argues that "Sanskrit is derived from Sindhi therefore its real stem is Sindhi language".

Further, he expresses that Indus valley was the original place of eastern or western people in regarding of language, culture and civilization. Siraj asserts that the people of ancient Sindh brought the language and culture along with them during the migration to Mesopotamia and Babylonia. whereas, fourth opinion is given by M.K Jetley. Jetley (1991) argues that Sindhi language is originated from some old Indo-Aryan dialects which were spoken in the region of lower Indus Valley. However, last view is presented by Modern Sindhi Linguist Ghulam Ali Allana. Allana (2002) states that "Sindhi is not offshoot of any other language. It has roots in the Indus valley civilization". Therefore, Sindhi language is original and the native language of Indus valley people. In spite of these five opinions regarding origin of Sindhi language, still it has remained as an unsolved problem for the students of Archaeology, Linguistics and Ethno-linguists,

Sindhi is one of the Indo-European families of languages and having ample vocabulary. Sindhi language have three written scripts, Persio-Arabic, Devanagari and Gurmukhi. Persio-Arabic script is used in Sindh province while

Devanagari script is used in India (Jatly,2013). Hence this study focuses on Persio-Arabic script.

English

English language emerged from the West Germanic branch of the Indo-European language family. Traditionally, History of English language has been divided into three main periods, first is Old English which starts from 450 to 1100 AD, second is Middle English which begins from 1100 to 1500 AD and last is Modern English which are we speaking. First period began during to Germanic tribes Saxons, Angles, and Jutes who came from various parts of northwest Germany. These tribes were so brave, they mixed their different Germanic dialects. Middle period starts after the conquer of William when Normandy attacked on England. During this period ,English language was developed regarding the morphological point of view and many words were formed. Middle period is also the beginning of great vowel shift period. In this period , the most famous story Canterbury tales was written by Chaucer. *Modern English (1500 to the present)*: Modern English developed after William Caxton who established his printing press at Westminster Abbey . in this period, The Bible and some major manuscripts were printed. This period is known as Shakespeare's writings who brought the revolution through his art of writing. Lastly, There were three big developments in the world at the beginning of Modern English period: the Renaissance, the Industrial Revolution, and the British Colonialism.

The nature of language is not constant. it changes according to time and situation. Similarly, English language which is lingua franca , its development is also ongoing process.

Brief Account of the Syntax of English and Sindhi

English and Sindhi are two different languages from syntactic point of view, for example English is head-first language (SVO) while Sindhi is head-last language (SOV) and this is rule that all phrases are endocentric rule means all phrases have its head. So, in English, head of phrase comes before its complement position”. it means head word comes in the beginning of phrase whereas in Sindhi head word comes in the end of phrase.

Consider the following sentences

The chairman of English Department went to Gujrat University last week.

In above sentence Noun phrase (NP) is “**The chairman of English Department**” the head word is “the chairman” which comes here in the beginning of phrase while we would find different position in Sindhi translation.

Department jo chairman guzriyal hafte Gujrat university

(Department of chairman last week Gujraat university went.)

Here the head word “ chairman comes in the end of phrase. In addition to this, in English the verb comes before the object while in Sindhi language ,verb comes after the object. It is evident in the following example

I eat mango	Ma amb khawan tho
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In the above example, the verb “**eat**” comes before the object “**mango**” in English whereas in Sindhi translation verb “**khawan tho**”(eat) comes after the object “**amb**”(mango).

Subject-Verb Agreement

Subject-verb agreement rule is that subject (doer of action) and verb must be agree to one another in the form of number and in the form of person (To the point English Grammar) and another rule is that if subject is singular , its verb must be singular , if subject is plural its verb must be plural. Changing in noun and pronoun will bring change in verbs too and this condition can be adopted for English language not in Sindhi because in sindhi, verb does not change according to person and number of subject but it changes according to gender of subject. this rule is known as **Kartary Paryoog** and Kartary Paryoog is type of verb agreement in Sindhi language. The word “Kartar” means

‘Faail’ (Subject) and ‘Kartary’ means ‘Faaily’, and ‘Paryoog’ is Sanskrit term , it means to show relation or agreement.

Subject-Verb Agreement in Sindhi and English

after a giving concise description of subjective-verb agreement. We shall now find out the situations in which the relation between subject-verb is different in both languages and we shall examine the contexts in which there is similarity. First we shall investigate the similarities then differences in subject-verb agreement in both languages.

Similarities

There are following rules which are taken from *To point English Grammar and Composition* which are applicable in Sindhi language. First, the rules will be discussed that are similar in both languages and then example from English and sindhi languages will be given.

First rule

if subject comprises on two or more singular nouns or pronouns and connected by the conjunction “and” so its verb will be plural.

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation
Ikhlauque and Iqbal were here at that time	Ikhlauque ain iqbal un wakt hite hua (Ikhlauque and iqbal that time here were.)
As you like it and Romeo and Juliet are two famous dramas of William Shakespeare.	As you like it ain Romeo ain Juliet Shakespeare ja bah mashoor drama aahin. (as you like it and Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare of two famous drama are.)

In first example “Ikhlauque and iqbal” are connected with the help of conjunction “and” (ain) , so subject takes the plural verb , similarly in second sentence “as you like it and Romeo and Juliet” are connected with the same conjunction, it also takes the plural verb . It is proved that the rule which was mentioned above is applicable in both languages. In addition to this, there is also exception to this rule which is that when noun refers to the same idea or same person so the form of verb will be singular which is shown in following example.

The famous poet and philosopher Allama Iqbal was born in Sialkot.	Mashoor shaair Ain mufakir allama iqbal Sialkot me peda thiyo (The famous poet and philosopher allama iqbal Sialkot in born was)
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In above example “the famous poet and philosopher” indicates to the same person which is “Allama Iqbal so that’s why in English, singular verb “was born” and in sindhi “peda thiyo” is used which tells us that the rule is valid in both language..

Second rule

This rule says that the condition in which words are attached to singular subject by using “with” in addition to etc . so form of verb will be used singular as shown in following examples.

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation
He along with his sons often comes to meet me.	Hu panje putran sudho aksar mu saan Milan ache tho (He his sons along with often me to meet comes)
Teacher along with his students has gone to London.	Ustad pehje shagrid saa gad London wayal aahe

	Teacher his students with London gone has
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in first no examples, the additional phrase “along with his sons” has no any effect in the form of verb so singular verb “comes” (ache tho) is used with He and that is singular subject. Hence it is proved that rule is also valid in both languages for same situation. However in second example additional phrase “along with his students ” has also no any effect in the form of verb so similarly singular verb “has gone” (wayal ahe) is used with teacher and that is singular subject.

Hence it is also proved that rule is also valid in both languages like the first example.

Third rule

The third rule says that two nouns qualified by ‘each’ or ‘every’ joined by ‘and’ take a singular verb ; as

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation
Every <i>man and woman has to help orphan.</i>	Har mard aain har aurat khe yateeman jee madad karni aahe Every man and every women to orphan help has
Every girl and every boy is going on picnic.	Har chokri aen har chokro picnic ty wanyi rahyo ahy. (Every girl and every boy picnic on going is.)

In the examples given above ‘woman’ (aurat) and ‘man’ (murd) , ‘girl’ (chokri) and boy (chokro) are qualified by ‘every’ (har) therefore in both English and Sindhi versions singular verbs ‘plays’ (ada kary tho) and ‘is going’ (wanyi rahyo ahy) have been used. Hence this rule also shows similar results in case of both languages.

Fourth rule

Fourth rule describes that the collective noun often carries singular verbs. Collective nouns are those words which comprises on more than one member, like , hair, crowd, team etc. it carries singular verb because the members are shaped as whole. Example are below

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation
Her hair was looking very shinny .	Hun ja waartamamchamkannazrachirayanhuya. (her hair very shinny looking was)
The team was reaching at airport when I saw it.	Jamaaitairpor wat puchirahihuyi jade maaunkheditho Team airport at reaching was when I it saw.

In above given examples, the singular forms of verb ‘was looking’ (nazarachirahyahua) and ‘ was reaching’ (puchirahihuyi) have been used as collective nouns. The hair (waar) and the team (jamaait) respectively describing that rule is applicable for both of languages.

Fifth Rule

This rule explains that when a subject consist of two or more than two nouns, the verb will not be used in accordance with the number of noun attached to it instead it will be used according to number of noun which is proper subject as it is shown in the following examples.

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation

Her view about the Indian writers is not good.	Hun je raaye Hindustan je lekhkanbabatsahinahe. Her view Indian writers about good not.
The outcomes of that pact were very effective	Hun thahraauojaanateejatamamasraetahua That pact of outcomes very effective were

In above given examples, our real subjects are ‘ her view’ (hunjeeraaye) which is singular and ‘the outcomes’ (nateeja) that is plural. Hence, the verbs are used accordingly in both examples as the singular forms of verbs in first example is ‘is’ (aahe) have been used according to singular nature of subject and in the second example the plural forms of verb ‘ were’ (hua). They are used according to plural nature of subject. Therefore, this rule is valid for both languages.

Sixth rule

This rule is linked with number of subjects, it describes that the forms of verbs should be used according the number of subjects. Consider the following examples

Example from English	Example in Sindhi with word for word translation
Book was recommend by the teacher.	Kitab ustaad kha tajveez kayo wayo Book teacher from recommended
Books were recommend by the teacher.	Kitab ustaad kha tajveez kayawaya Books teacher from recommended

Above examples include the parameters of Both English and Sindhi language, it is noted that if the number of subject changes then the form of verb will be changed. In the first example , the subject, i.e book (kitab) , being as singular , it carries the singular form of verb ‘was recommended’ (tajveez kayo wayo), while in second example, ‘books’ (kitab) being as plural it takes the plural form, i.e ‘were recommended’ (tajveez kaya waya). Hence, it is proved that this rule has got applicability in both languages.

Differences

We find some sort of differences between English and Sindhi language as long as their subject verb agreement rule are concerned. Some examples are given in following table

First rule

First difference of the subject verb agreement rule in both languages is based on person or pronoun (Rashid, 2007). It is shown in the following examples

Example from English	Example from sindhi
I say	Maa chawa tho
we say	Asaan chau tha
you say	Tawn chau tha
He says	Hu chawe tho
she says	Hua chawe thi
It says	Ihe chawe tho
They say	Uhey chawan tha

In given above examples, it is shown that different pronouns have been used. It should be noted that in all sentence examples, English has only two possible form of the verb i.e “say and says”. The former is used with first and second persons (I, We, You, They) while later is used with third persons (He , She, it, Singular Noun) . on the

other hand, in sindhi , form of verbs changes according to different pronouns. This is difference between English and Sindhi language according to subject verb agreement.

Second difference

There is another difference between English and sindhi language according to subject verb agreement which is that in English language, the forms of verb does not change according to gender of subject whereas in Sindhi language, verbs change their form according to gender of their subject.

For example,

Examples from English for Masculine and Feminine	Example from sindhi for masculine	Example from sindhi for feminine
I eat	Ma khawa tho	Ma khawa thi
We eat	Asaan khau tha	Aseen khayu thiyu
You eat	Tawan khau tha	Tu khae thi
He eats	Hu khae tho	
She eats	He khae thi	
They eat	Uhe khaain tha	Uhey khaen thiyu

In sindhi language when I refers to masculine, the form of verb will be khawa tho.. when I refer to feminine then form of verb will be changes from khawan tho to khawan thi. These changes are also applicable with pronouns in sindhi language. While in English language form of verbs will not be changes according to gender. It will remain same.

CONCLUSION

This study is based on comparison between two major languages Sindhi and English. The study shows that there are conditions or contexts in which subject and verb agree in a sentence. The study shows some similar rules which can be applied in both languages. It also tells us some differences regarding syntactic properties of sentences in both languages.

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